MOORE WILLIAMS III GRAY COX KLEIN

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MAYOR
PLEASE
HELLO.
MMM.
PHUUUUU...
"HELLO, O HELL," EH? EH?

HMM. THREE KINGS. THAT'S RATHER A GOOD HAND, DARLING, BUT WE BOTH KNOW YOU'VE GOT MORE HIDDEN UP YOUR SLEEVE.
I GUESSED RIGHT, DIDN'T I? YOU'VE GOT THE ENTIRE HOWLING IN THERE.
IT MUST BE BEASTLY.
NOT AT ALL. SONNY'S LOVING EVERY MINUTE, AREN'T YOU, SONNY?
THERE. HE'S SPEECHLESS WITH JOY.
NOW, MISS BRANNAGH, MISS VANDERVEER, THE REGENT ASMODAY UP TO MY LEFT HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU.
YOUR INFERNAL HIGHNESS?

Eden
FINS
EH?
I AM HAPPY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE...
G-GRACE? JESUS...
...GRACE, IS THAT YOU?
GRACE, ASMODEUS HAS US! WE'RE TRAPPED IN THE QLIPPOTH OF GEBURAH, AND WE CAN'T GET OUT!
B-BARBARA? SOPHIE?

PROMETHEA

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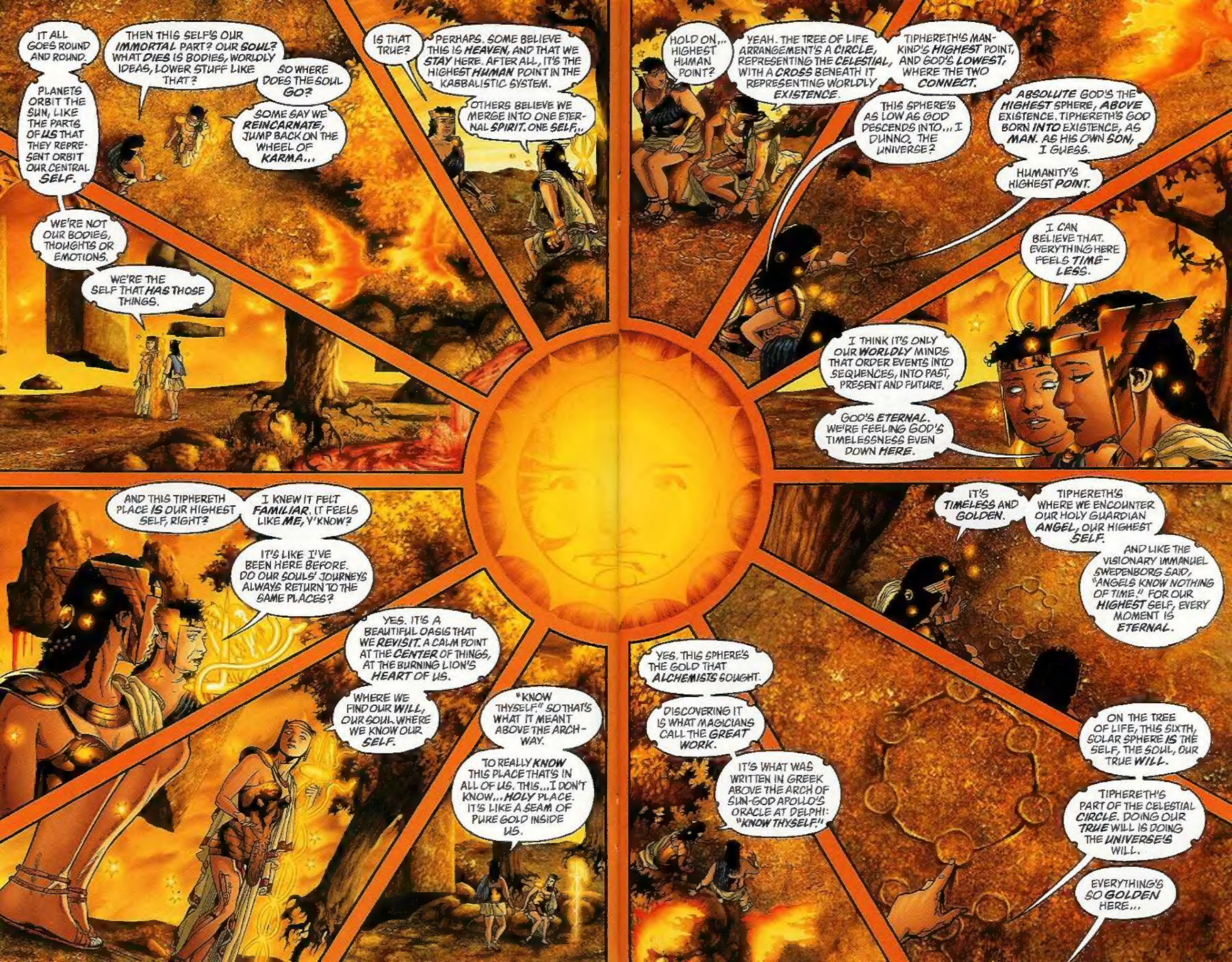
GOLD

THAT'S WHAT TIPHERETH MEANS: BEAUTY, HARMONY. IT'S LIKE THE SUN. IT'S THE POINT OF BALANCE ALL THE OTHER SPHERES REVOLVE AROUND.

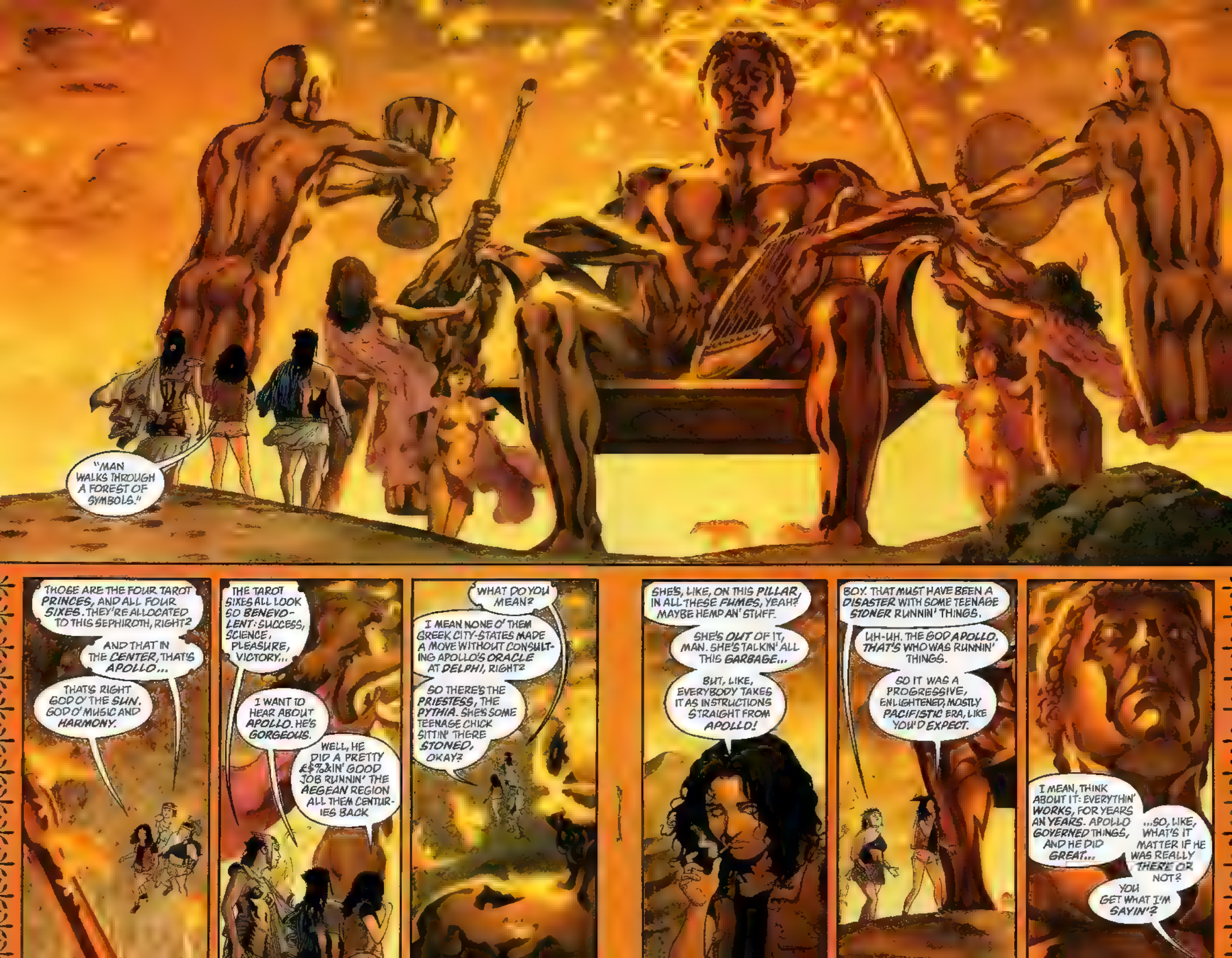

IT ALL GOES ROUND AND ROUND.
PLANETS ORBIT THE SUN, LIKE THE PARTS OF US THAT THEY REPRESENT ORBIT OUR CENTRAL SELF.
WE'RE NOT OUR BODIES, THOUGHTS OR EMOTIONS.
WE'RE THE SELF THAT HAS THOSE THINGS.
THEN THIS SELF'S OUR IMMORTAL PART? OUR SOUL? WHAT DIES IS BODIES, WORLDLY IDEAS, LOWER STUFF LIKE THAT?
SO WHERE DOES THE SOUL GO?
SOME SAY WE REINCARNATE, JUMP BACK ON THE WHEEL OF KARMA...
IS THAT TRUE?
PERHAPS. SOME BELIEVE THIS IS HEAVEN, AND THAT WE STAY HERE. AFTER ALL, IT'S THE HIGHEST HUMAN POINT IN THE KABBALISTIC SYSTEM.
OTHERS BELIEVE WE MERGE INTO ONE ETERNAL SPIRIT. ONE SELF...
HOLD ON,... HIGHEST HUMAN POINT?
YEAH. THE TREE OF LIFE ARRANGEMENT'S A CIRCLE, REPRESENTING THE CELESTIAL, WITH A CROSS BENEATH IT REPRESENTING WORLDLY EXISTENCE.
TIPHERETH'S MANKIND'S HIGHEST POINT, AND GOD'S LOWEST, WHERE THE TWO CONNECT.
THIS SPHERE'S AS LOW AS GOD DESCENDS INTO... I DUNNO, THE UNIVERSE?
ABSOLUTE GOD'S THE HIGHEST SPHERE, ABOVE EXISTENCE. TIPHERETH'S GOD BORN INTO EXISTENCE, AS MAN. AS HIS OWN SON, I GUESS.
HUMANITY'S HIGHEST POINT.
I CAN BELIEVE THAT. EVERYTHING HERE FEELS TIMELESS.
I THINK IT'S ONLY OUR WORLDLY MINDS THAT ORDER EVENTS INTO SEQUENCES, INTO PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.
GOD'S ETERNAL. WE'RE FEELING GOD'S TIMELESSNESS EVEN DOWN HERE.
AND THIS TIPHERETH PLACE IS OUR HIGHEST SELF, RIGHT?
I KNEW IT FELT FAMILIAR. IT FEELS LIKE ME, Y'KNOW?
IT'S LIKE I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE. DO OUR SOULS' JOURNEYS ALWAYS RETURN TO THE SAME PLACES?
YES. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL OASIS THAT WE REVISIT. A CALM POINT AT THE CENTER OF THINGS, AT THE BURNING LION'S HEART OF US.
WHERE WE FIND OUR WILL, OUR SOUL. WHERE WE KNOW OUR SELF.
"KNOW THYSELF." SO THAT'S WHAT IT MEANT ABOVE THE ARCHWAY.
TO REALLY KNOW THIS PLACE THAT'S IN ALL OF US. THIS...I DON'T KNOW... HOLY PLACE. IT'S LIKE A SEAM OF PURE GOLD INSIDE US.
IT'S TIMELESS AND GOLDEN.
TIPHERETH'S WHERE WE ENCOUNTER OUR HOLY GUARDIAN ANGEL, OUR HIGHEST SELF.
AND LIKE THE VISIONARY IMMANUEL SWEDENBORG SAID, "ANGELS KNOW NOTHING OF TIME." FOR OUR HIGHEST SELF, EVERY MOMENT IS ETERNAL.
YES. THIS SPHERE'S THE GOLD THAT ALCHEMISTS SOUGHT.
DISCOVERING IT IS WHAT MAGICIANS CALL THE GREAT WORK.
IT'S WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN GREEK ABOVE THE ARCH OF SUN-GOD APOLLO'S ORACLE AT DELPHI: "KNOW THYSELF."
ON THE TREE OF LIFE, THIS SIXTH, SOLAR SPHERE IS THE SELF, THE SOUL, OUR TRUE WILL.
TIPHERETH'S PART OF THE CELESTIAL CIRCLE. DOING OUR TRUE WILL IS DOING THE UNIVERSE'S WILL.
EVERYTHING'S SO GOLDEN HERE...

IT'S ALL A CIRCLE. IT'S A GOLDEN CIRCLE GOING ON FOREVER...
SOPHIE? WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THIS PLACE BEING HEAVEN, OR WHERE EVERYBODY MERGES INTO ONE SOUL OR WHATEVER?
WELL, WHAT ABOUT STEVE?
I MEAN, IF I FIND HIM HERE, WILL HE STILL BE STEVE? THE STEVE THAT I KNEW?
WELL, YOU'D BOTH BE YOUR TRUE SELVES HERE, SO I GUESS YOU'LL BOTH BE DIFFERENT.
BUT THAT'S OKAY...
SEE, THIS PLACE IS BEAUTY, AND EINSTEIN SAID BEAUTY IS TRUTH.
WHAT PEOPLE ARE HERE, THAT'S THE TRUTH, THE BEAUTIFUL REALITY. LIFE'S A DREAM WE WAKE FROM.
HERE, WE'RE WHO WE ARE IN OUR HEARTS.
IT'S WEIRD. ONE MINUTE I'M FILLED WITH THIS INCREDIBLE JOY, AND THE NEXT...
DUNNO. SORROW, I GUESS, ALTHOUGH I CAN'T TELL WHERE IT'S COMING FROM...
I KNOW. IT'S LIKE CLOUDS PASSING ACROSS THE SUN.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT'S LIKE! I KEEP THINKING THE LIGHT'S CHANGING, BUT IT'S ME. IT'S INSIDE ME.
SOPHIE, HOW COME THERE'S SORROW IN HEAVEN?
WELL, IF THERE WEREN'T, IT WOULDN'T BE HEAVEN. IT'D BE DISNEYLAND.
HEH. YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
EVEN SO, I'D EXPECTED MORE ANGELS...
I DON'T KNOW. I KEEP GETTING THIS FEELING LIKE... LIKE THIS BRIGHT INFORMATION? BUT IT'S SO PURE, IT ISN'T ABOUT ANYTHING?
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN...

I GUESS I JUST MEAN A SENSE OF PRESENCE.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
THIS IS A STRANGE PLACE. IT'S SWEET AND FAMILIAR, BUT THEN IT'S LIKE BEING ON SOME MOUNTAIN-TOP INSIDE YOURSELF, IN THE WIND AND LIGHT.
YOU KNOW. SORT OF SCARY.
YEAH. IT'S ALMOST LIKE BEING NAKED OR SOMETHING. NAKED IN YOUR BARE SOUL.
IT FEELS GOOD, BUT IT FEELS VULNERABLE, LIKE...
OH JEEZ.
BARBARA, LOOK THERE...
IT'S A LITTLE KID. WHAT'S SHE DOIN' HERE?
Y-YOU KNOW, SHE'S SORT OF FAMILIAR...
SHHH. DON'T SCARE HER AWAY...
WHAT, YOU THINK I CAN'T HEAR YA? STOMPIN' THROUGH THE GRASS LIKE A COUPLE O' £$%&IN' ELEPHANTS, MAN.
HEY, BARB? GOTTA SAY, YOU BREAK ME UP IN THAT HAT. WHAT IS THAT, GIRL?
HUH? YOU KNOW ME?
HA! WELL, I KNOW IT'S GOTTA BE TWENTY YEARS SINCE YOU LOOKED GOOD IN A £$%&IN' RA-RA SKIRT, THAT'S FOR £$%&IN' SURE.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! WHO ARE YOU?

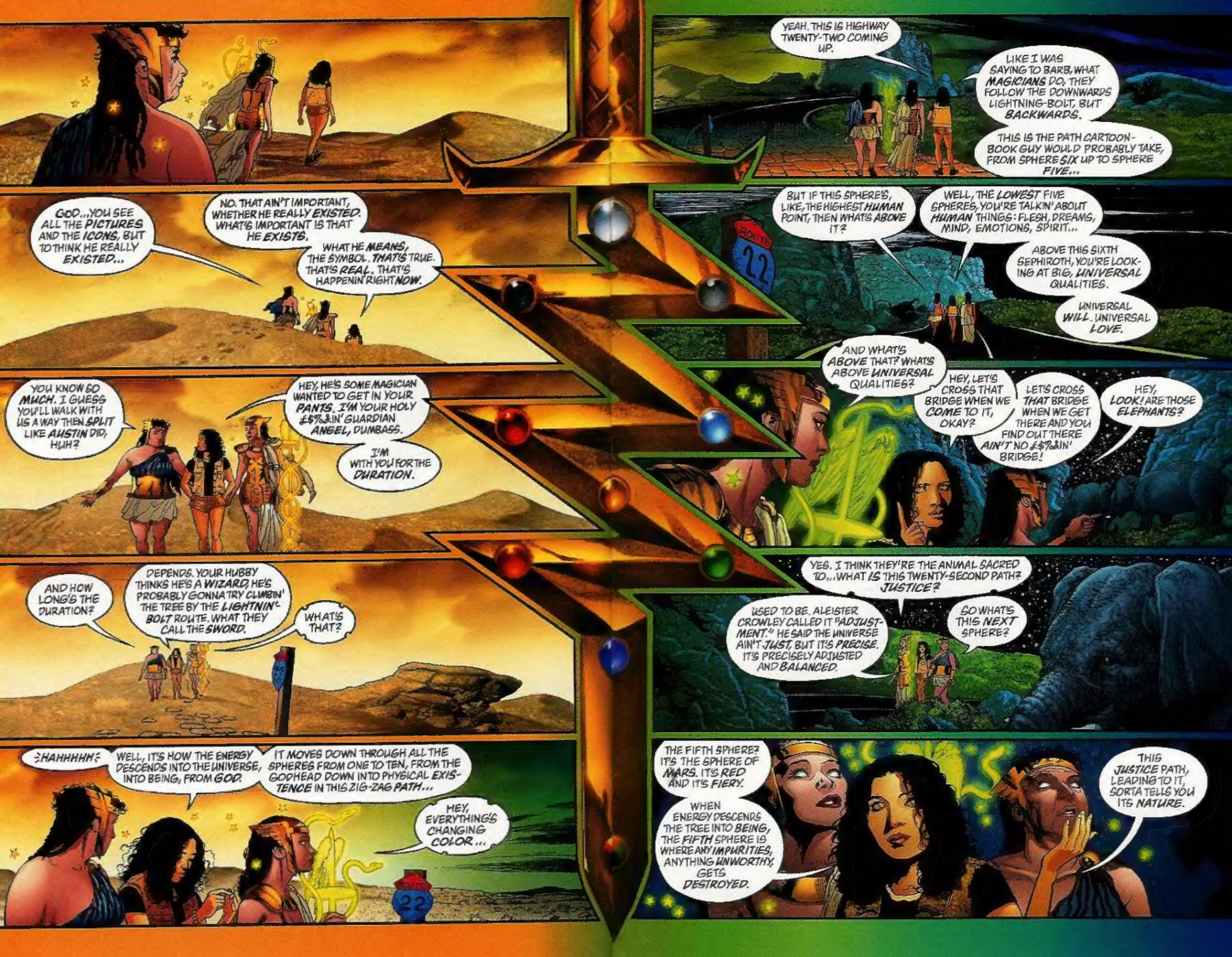
I'M HER HOLY £$%&IN' GUARDIAN ANGEL, BRASS-BUTT.
MY NAME'S BOO-BOO RAMIREZ.
WHO THE £$%& ARE YOU?
THE ANGEL BOO-BOO?
AW, GOD. AWW GOD...
SOPHIE, IT'S ME. WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN, EVERYBODY CALLED ME BOO-BOO. IT'S... AW, GOD...
HEY, BABY, DON'T CRY. WHO THE £$%& WAS YOU EXPECTIN' YOUR ANGEL TO BE, IF IT AIN'T ME?
AW, JEEZ. YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL.
AND LOOK AT YOU, YOU'RE ALL STRONG. YOU DON'T TAKE NO CRAP FROM ANYBODY...
HEY. I'M HERE, OKAY? I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HERE. YOU KNEW THAT, RIGHT?
NOW COME ON. YOU WERE LOOKING FOR THAT SKINNY-ASS HUSBAND OF YOURS.
Y-YOU KNOW WHERE STEVE IS?
NAH, NOT EXACTLY. THE CARTOON-BOOK GUY THINKS HE'S A £$%&IN' WIZARD STRAIGHT OFF THE £$%&IN' CEREAL BOX, RIGHT?
MY GUESS, HE WON'T BE SATISFIED HERE. GUYS WHO THINK THEY'RE WIZARDS ALWAYS GOTTA CLIMB HIGHER. £$%&IN' MACHO ASSHOLES.
UH... I'M SOPHIE, INCIDENTALLY. I'M BARBARA'S FRIEND.

HEY, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. I WAS JUST KIDDIN' EARLIER.
I KNOW EVERYTHING SHE KNOWS. IT'S JUST SHE DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING I KNOW.
YOU'RE OKAY, SOPHIE, THE OLD LADY HERE, SHE NEEDS A HOMEY LIKE YOU.
SO...UH...WILL I MEET MY HOLY GUARDIAN ANGEL HERE?
MAYBE NOT
MAYBE YOU'RE ALREADY WEARIN' YOUR HOLY GUARDIAN ANGEL, YOU EVER THINK ABOUT THAT?
MAYBE SOPHIE BANGS' HIGHEST SELF RIGHT NOW, THAT'S THIS PROMETHEA DEAL YOU GUYS GOT GOIN' ON?
I-I'D TRUST HER, SOPH. SHE ALWAYS KNEW WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT.
YEAH. MAYBE I DID, EXCEPT WITH THE BOYS.
ANYWAY, THERE'S MORE TO THIS PLACE THAN JUST MEETIN' ANGELS, BABYGIRL, TRUST ME.
THERE'S THE FOUR SIXES AND ALL THE PRINCES. THERE'S THE VISION OF HARMONY, THERE'S THE RISEN GODS...
AND I GUESS THEY'RE ALL A PART OF UNDERSTANDING THIS SPHERE, RIGHT?
YOU BET YOUR ASS. EVERYTHING HERE IS FULL O' MEANIN'. EVERYTHIN' REPRESENTS SOMETHING.
IT'S LIKE ONE O' THEM PHILOSOPHER GUYS SAID, JUST ABOUT ORDINARY HUMAN LIFE AND WHAT IT'S LIKE...


"MAN WALKS THROUGH A FOREST OF SYMBOLS."
THOSE ARE THE FOUR TAROT PRINCES, AND ALL FOUR SIXES. THEY'RE ALLOCATED TO THIS SEPHIROTH, RIGHT?
AND THAT IN THE CENTER, THAT'S APOLLO...
THAT'S RIGHT GOD O' THE SUN. GOD O' MUSIC AND HARMONY.
THE TAROT SIXES ALL LOOK SO BENEVOLENT: SUCCESS, SCIENCE, PLEASURE, VICTORY...
I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT APOLLO. HE'S GORGEOUS.
WELL, HE DID A PRETTY £$%&IN' GOOD JOB RUNNIN' THE AEGEAN REGION ALL THEM CENTURIES BACK
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN NONE O' THEM GREEK CITY-STATES MADE A MOVE WITHOUT CONSULTING APOLLO'S ORACLE AT DELPHI, RIGHT?
SO THERE'S THE PRIESTESS, THE PYTHIA. SHE'S SOME TEENAGE CHICK SITTIN' THERE STONED, OKAY?
SHE'S, LIKE, ON THIS PILLAR, IN ALL THESE FUMES, YEAH? MAYBE HEMP AN' STUFF.
SHE'S OUT OF IT, MAN. SHE'S TALKIN' ALL THIS GARBAGE...
BUT, LIKE, EVERYBODY TAKES IT AS INSTRUCTIONS STRAIGHT FROM APOLLO!
BOY. THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A DISASTER WITH SOME TEENAGE STONER RUNNIN' THINGS.
UH-UH. THE GOD APOLLO. THAT'S WHO WAS RUNNIN' THINGS.
SO IT WAS A PROGRESSIVE, ENLIGHTENED, MOSTLY PACIFISTIC ERA, LIKE YOU'D EXPECT.
I MEAN, THINK ABOUT IT: EVERYTHIN' WORKS, FOR YEARS AN YEARS. APOLLO GOVERNED THINGS, AND HE DID GREAT...
...SO, LIKE, WHAT'S IT MATTER IF HE WAS REALLY THERE OR NOT?
YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYIN'?

I THINK SO. IT'S LIKE APOLLO'S NOT JUST THE GOD OF HUMAN ENLIGHTENMENT AND HARMONY, HE'S THE ESSENCE OF THOSE THINGS.
HE'S HUMAN HARMONY ITSELF. WHERE IT IS, HE IS.
SURE. JUST LIKE APHRODITE IS HUMAN LOVE, OR HERMES IS HUMAN COMMUNICATION. I MEAN, THIS AIN'T £$%&'IN' ROCKET SCIENCE!
WHAT ABOUT THESE GUYS UP AHEAD HERE? WHAT ARE THEY THE ESSENCES OF?
THESE? THESE ARE, LIKE, THE RISEN GODS. IT'S LIKE THE SUN. IT GOES AWAY EVERY NIGHT, THEN IN THE MORNING IT RISES. IT'S REBORN.
MR GOODBUNS HERE, THAT'S BALDUR. BALDER THE BEAUTIFUL, FROM THE NORTHLANDS.
IT'S 'CAUSE HE'S BEAUTY, SEE? HE'S FOREVER!
HE GETS KILLED BY LOKI, WHO'S GOD OF £$%&'IN' WIT' PEOPLE, BUT THEN AFTER RAGNAROK AN' ALL THAT, TAA-DAAAA! BALDUR'S REBORN!
I HEARD OF BALDUR WHAT ABOUT THIS GUY, LOOKS LIKE HE SHOULD BE SELLING SWEETCORN?
OH, THIS IS MY MAN ATTIS. HE WAS SO CUTE, THE GODDESS CYBELE CASTRATED HIM SO NOBODY ELSE COULD HAVE HIM
ATTIS DIES, THEN COMES BACK AS TREES AND FLOWERS AND STUFF. FINALLY, DURIN' THIS FAMINE IN PHRYGIA, CYBELE REVIVES HIM AS A CROP GOD.
SO HE'S A SYMBOL OF RETURN, LIKE THE SOLAR DEITIES?
WELL, ATTIS IS MORE LIKE DIONYSUS HERE. IN THE ORPHIC MYTHS, ZEUS SCREWS DEMETER'S GIRL PERSEPHONE, SHE SQUATS OUT LITTLE DIONYSUS, OKAY?
ZEUS'S OLD LADY, HERA, SHE HIRES THESE TITAN GOONS TO TEAR THE KID TO BITS AND EAT HIM ALL THEY LEAVE IS HIS HEART.
ATHENA, SHE GIVES THIS TO A MORTAL WOMAN, SEMELE, WHO EATS IT. NINE MONTHS LATER, DIONYSUS IS REBORN
REBORN LIKE THE VINE HE SYMBOLIZES. WHO'S THIS NEXT ONE? HE LOOKS EGYPTIAN...
AND MORBID. ALL THESE SYMBOLS OF DEATH AND DECAY. IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, ALL THAT ROT... IT'S SORTA PROFANE. IS THAT THE WORD?
BUT... I DON'T KNOW MAYBE THE FACT IT'S HERE MEANS THAT... WELL, THAT THE PROFANE IS KINDA SACRED TOO? DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?
BARBARA, THAT'S... THAT'S REALLY PROFOUND. WOW. I MEAN, JESUS CHRIST...
YEAH

OH NO. OH NO...
OH YES. SEE, CRUCIFIXION, IT WASN'T JUST, LIKE, EXECUTIN' SOMEBODY.
IT WAS SOMETHING YOU'D DO TO A DOG.
OH GOD. OH GOD, I CAN'T LOOK AT IT...
TO A DOG, MAN. A £$%&IN' DOG.
IT WAS DEGRADIN'. IT WAS HUMILIATIN'...
...AND THEY DID IT TO HIM. TO HIM. YOU GET IT?
I UNDER-STAND.
WITH THIEVES.
OH GOD. I UNDERSTAND...
OUR HIGHEST POINT. THE BEST IN US. THE GOLD.
AND IT'S NAILED WRITHING ON THE CROSS OF THE WORLD.
THAT'S US UP THERE, MAN.
BUT EVEN DOWN HERE, AT THE LOWEST AUSCHWITZ ASS-END OF WHAT HUMANS ARE, AND WHAT HUMANS DO...
...OUR HIGHEST POINT IS STILL HERE WITH US.
THERE'S LIGHT. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT.
THERE'S LIGHT AT THE BOTTOM.


GOD...YOU SEE ALL THE PICTURES AND THE ICONS, BUT TO THINK HE REALLY EXISTED...
NO. THAT AIN'T IMPORTANT, WHETHER HE REALLY EXISTED. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT HE EXISTS.
WHAT HE MEANS, THE SYMBOL. THAT'S TRUE. THAT'S REAL. THAT'S HAPPENIN' RIGHT NOW.
YOU KNOW SO MUCH. I GUESS YOU'LL WALK WITH US A WAY THEN SPLIT LIKE AUSTIN DID, HUH?
HEY, HE'S SOME MAGICIAN WANTED TO GET IN YOUR PANTS. I'M YOUR HOLY £$%&IN' GUARDIAN ANGEL, DUMBASS.
I'M WITH YOU FOR THE DURATION.
AND HOW LONG'S THE DURATION?
DEPENDS. YOUR HUBBY THINKS HE'S A WIZARD. HE'S PROBABLY GONNA TRY CLIMBIN' THE TREE BY THE LIGHTNIN'-BOLT ROUTE. WHAT THEY CALL THE SWORD.
WHAT'S THAT?
:HAHHHHH:
WELL, IT'S HOW THE ENERGY DESCENDS INTO THE UNIVERSE, INTO BEING, FROM GOD.
IT MOVES DOWN THROUGH ALL THE SPHERES FROM ONE TO TEN, FROM THE GODHEAD DOWN INTO PHYSICAL EXISTENCE IN THIS ZIG-ZAG PATH...
HEY, EVERYTHING'S CHANGING COLOR...
YEAH. THIS IS HIGHWAY TWENTY-TWO COMING UP.
LIKE I WAS SAYING TO BARB, WHAT MAGICIANS DO, THEY FOLLOW THE DOWNWARDS LIGHTNING-BOLT, BUT BACKWARDS.
THIS IS THE PATH CARTOON-BOOK GUY WOULD PROBABLY TAKE, FROM SPHERE SIX UP TO SPHERE FIVE...
BUT IF THIS SPHERE'S, LIKE, THE HIGHEST HUMAN POINT, THEN WHAT'S ABOVE IT?
WELL, THE LOWEST FIVE SPHERES, YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT HUMAN THINGS: FLESH, DREAMS, MIND, EMOTIONS, SPIRIT...
ABOVE THIS SIXTH SEPHIROTH, YOU'RE LOOKING AT BIG, UNIVERSAL QUALITIES.
UNIVERSAL WILL. UNIVERSAL LOVE.
AND WHAT'S ABOVE THAT? WHAT'S ABOVE UNIVERSAL QUALITIES?
HEY, LET'S CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT, OKAY?
LET'S CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE GET THERE AND YOU FIND OUT THERE AIN'T NO £$%&IN' BRIDGE!
HEY, LOOK! ARE THOSE ELEPHANTS?
YES. I THINK THEY'RE THE ANIMAL SACRED TO...WHAT IS THIS TWENTY-SECOND PATH? JUSTICE?
USED TO BE. ALEISTER CROWLEY CALLED IT "ADJUSTMENT." HE SAID THE UNIVERSE AIN'T JUST, BUT IT'S PRECISE. IT'S PRECISELY ADJUSTED AND BALANCED.
SO WHAT'S THIS NEXT SPHERE?
THE FIFTH SPHERE? IT'S THE SPHERE OF MARS. IT'S RED AND IT'S FIERY.
WHEN ENERGY DESCENDS THE TREE INTO BEING, THE FIFTH SPHERE IS WHERE ANY IMPURITIES, ANYTHING UNWORTHY, GETS DESTROYED.
THIS JUSTICE PATH, LEADING TO IT, SORTA TELLS YOU ITS NATURE.

NEXT: PANIC IN MANHATTAN... HELL ON EARTH... HAVOC IN HEAVEN...

LIFE ON MARS.